from removing them, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dismissed their writ but directed the Committee to remove all the encroachments from footpath and to protect the public property and thus discharge statuary duties property.

(b) As reported by NCMC, it is conscious of the problems of encroachment on footpaths existing in its area and takes appropriate steps by conducting regular raids under Section 173 (2) of Punjab Municipal Act, 1911 for removal of encroachments. NDMC has removed unauthorised encroachments from Connaught Place., Janpath and Church Road at Central Secretariat, Sarojini Nagar and Chelmsford Road with the help of local police.

(c) As reported by NDMC, a large number of squatters are doing their business in NDMC area under the Strength of the Stay Orders from various Courts. Clearance will depend on the final orders of the various Courts.

Besides, the Supreme Court of India has constituted a Judicial committee under the Chairman ship of Shri G.P. Tharaja, Additional District Judge to scrutinise the claims of the hawkers/squatters operating in NDMC area. Many such applications are pending before the Committee.

It may, however, be mentioned that the removal of squatters has to be done on a continuous basis and hence no time limit can be given.

(d) As reported by Municipal Corporation Delhi, encroachment on municipal roads including footpaths/berms are actionable under Section 321 and 322 of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957. Operations are carried out by MCD from time to time to remove such encroachments in various areas.

(f) National Commission on Urbanisation has recommended as under:-

"Squatting on public land may be regularised where possible. But land required for public and social purposes must be protected and selective relocation of squatters from ecologically sensitive land must be undertaken".

(g) So far as regulation of squatting is concerned, NDMC and MCD grant Tehbazari and stalls/kiosks to the squatters. As reperted by NDMC, a policy has been framed by it which apart from demarcating squatting zones also enumerates methods of rehabilitation of the squatters.

Prices of Essential Commodities

5479. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the princes of essential commodities including edible oils, sugar vegetables, pulses, onion etc. in retails consumer markets as on February 29, 1992;

(b) the measures proposed to counteract inflationary pressure on these commotidties; and

(c) the results achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The retails prices of 10 essential commodities have not been reported by the State Civil Supplies Departments as on 29.2.1992. However, the retail prices as on 28.2.92 (Rearest date available) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c). The Cabinet committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister reviews the supply and

prices of essential commodities at regular intervals and takes appropriate action to correct the imbalances in the demand and supply. Towards this end, palmolein oil has been imported to supplement the overall supply of edible oils in the country. Efforts are also being made to augment the production of Pulses and oilseeds in the country. Public Distribution System has been revamped and extended to far flung remote and hilly areas to help the poorer sections of the society in getting essential items at reasonable prices. For this Purpose, 1700 blocks have been selected under the revamped PDS programme. The Government have intensified the action under the Essential commodities Act. 1955 against hoarders, black-marketeers and such antisocial elements. During the period 1.1.1991 to 29.2.1992 as many as 1634781 raids were made, 5673 persons arrested, 6690 persons prosecuted, 281 persons convected and goods worth Rs. 25.41 crores have been confiscated. As a result of various measures taken by the Government, there has been a decline in the prices of essential commodities such as pulses, potatoes, onions, chillies, tea, gur, mustard oil, groundnut oil and vanaspati. The price of sugar has also stablised at most of the centres.

STATEMENT

Retail prices of Selected Essential Commodities at Selected Centres as on 28.2.1992 (Rs. per kg.)

Centres	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Tur	Sugar	Gur*	Ground nut oil	Mustared oil	Vana-spati	Tea (loose)	Salt (packed)	Potat toes*	Oni ons*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Delhi	6.5	4.50	10.00	16.00	9.50	6.00	42.00	32.00	38.00	55.00	3.00	2.00	2.00
Lucknow	5.00	4.70	9.00	14.00	9.00	4.50	52.00	28.00	40.00	52.00	2.00	2.50	2.00
Ahmedabad	5.80	5.40	9.30	17.00	8.80	7.50	39.00	34.00	40.00	75.00	3.00	3.25	2.00
Bombay	7.20	7.40	11.00	17.00	9.20	9.00	40.00	38.00	46.00	60.00	2.50	3.50	1.50
Jaipur	7.50	5.00	8.25	17.00	9.25	5.75	40.00	30.00	40.00	65.00	2.50	2.00	1.75
Guwahati	6.00	5.75*	8.80	14.00	9.40	6.00	46.00	30.00	42.00	50.00	2.50	2.50	3.00
Patna	6.50	5.50	9.00	16.00*	9.00	6.50	NQ	36.00	40.00	60.00	3.00	2.00	2.00
Buhbaneshwar	4.80	5.00	10.50	16.00	9.50	7.00	49.50	36.00	44.00	60.00	2.50	2.20	2.00
Calcutta	5.50	4.50*	9.50	16.00	9.30	5.50	48.00	32.00	39.00	45.00	2.50	2.50	1.80
Hyderabad	6.00	5.00	9.00	14.25	8.40	5.00	34.00	44.00	38.00	40.00	1.50*	3.50	1.00

Centres	Rice	Wheat	Gram	Tur	Sugar	Gur*	Ground nut oil	Mustared oil	Vana-spati	Tea (loose)	Salt (packed)	Potat toes*	Oni ons*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bangalore	7.00	6.50	10.00	17.00	8.80	6.50	37.00	42.00	44.00	52.00	2.00	2.60	1.60
Trivandrum	7.50	8.75	14.50	20.00	9.25	8.30	45.00	NQ	50.50	59.00	2.50	5.00	3.80
Madras	6.20	6.50	10.00	17.00	8.70	6.00	35.00	46.00	42.00	84.00	1.50	3.00	2.50

Source : States Civil Supplies Departments.

NQ : Not quoted.

* : Prices as on 26.2.92